Year	State Commission	District Fora	Total
2006	2063	14614	16677
2007	3153	12830	15983
2008	3935	16375	20310

(c) The total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal at the end of 2008, as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Fora	Total
End of 2008	17755	14181	31936

Stem cell therapy to cure blindness

3719. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British scientists from the Institute of Ophthalmology at University College of London have developed the world's first stem cell therapy to cure the most common cause of blindness; and

(b) if so, the details of the discovery?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry does not maintain information on research underway in United Kingdom.

Shortage of pentavalent vaccine

3720. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to overcome the shortage of pentavalent vaccine in the country; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the shortage of pentavalent vaccine is affecting the immunization programme against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B and HIB?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Government of India is planning to introduce Pentavalent combination vaccine of DPT – Hepatitis B – Hib (Haemophilus influenzae b) in 5 States, namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu during 2009-10 to 2011-12. Cabinet approval is being sought for the same. The domestic vaccine industry has assured adequate availability of Pentavalent vaccine.

(b) No. As the vaccine is yet to be introduced, it has no bearing on immunization with Hepatitis B, DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) and Hib vaccines.

Mortality rate in Assam due to cancer

3721. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase of mortality due to cancer in Assam;

(b) whether there is lack of cancer treatment services in districts like Barpeta which require therapy centre, etc., for cancer treatment;

(c) whether the State Government has approached Government for assistance in this regard;

(d) whether any Central team will visit Barpeta and other districts of the State to assess the problem and redressal thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the problem of cancer disease in these districts will be covered under NRHM;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As reported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the data from Population Based Registries at Assam does not indicate any increase in mortality rate due to cancer in Assam.

Health is a State subject and it is for the State Government to provide the treatment facilities to the patients for diseases including Cancer. This Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 44.00 lakhs as Grant-in-aid to Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati for undertaking District Cancer Control Programme in the districts of Barpeta, Nalbari, Darrang, Kamrup, Marigaon and Nagaon in Assam.

The Central Team is sent for inspection only after proposals complete in all respects are received in this Ministry for financial assistance under scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).

(f) to (h) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) grant-in-aid is provided to various State Governments for upgradation of the district hospitals in their respective States.

Investment in the healthcare system

3722. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE and VC) have invested over $2 bn. into Healthcare and Life Sciences companies in India over the last five years and are keen to step up the pace of investments in the industry;

(b) whether over 42 per cent of PE and VC investors felt that there was a strong opportunity to tap market for healthcare services in semi-urban and rural areas; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government has agreed to help and assist these companies in India and what assistance provided to these sectors to improve healthcare investment?